

What is claimed is:

1. A dispenser for a refrigerator, comprising:

a housing mounted on a front surface of a door to define an external appearance, the
5 housing having a recessed portion formed to be depressed rearward;

a dispensing port for discharging water delivered from a main body of the
refrigerator to the recessed portion of the housing;

a water-dispensing button unit having a water-dispensing button pressed by means of
force exerted by a user to receive a signal necessary for the discharge of the water from the
10 dispensing port;

an actuating switch operated by the water-dispensing button unit to generate a signal
for opening and closing the dispensing port; and

a driving lever for connecting the actuating switch and the water-dispensing button
to drive the actuating switch by means of the operation of the water-dispensing button.

15 2. The dispenser as claimed in claim 1, wherein a penetration portion is formed at an
upper end of the recessed portion of the housing so that the water discharged from the
dispensing port can be delivered to the recessed portion.

20 3. The dispenser as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water-dispensing button unit
comprises:

a support frame for guiding the movement of the water-dispensing button; and

a resilient member disposed between the support frame and the water-dispensing
button to provide force to the water-dispensing button in one direction.

25 4. The dispenser as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water-dispensing button unit is
provided, at mutually corresponding positions of the water-dispensing button and the support
frame, with catching ribs and guide ribs for guiding the movement of the water-dispensing
button and regulating the moved position of the water-dispensing button, respectively.

5. The dispenser as claimed in claim 1, wherein an ON/OFF driving protrusion of the actuating switch is operated by an elastically deformable resilient rib provided at a side of the actuating switch, and the resilient rib is operated by one end of the driving lever.

5 6. The dispenser as claimed in claim 1, wherein the driving lever pivots on a hinge portion such that both ends thereof move in the same manner as a seesaw, and one end of the driving lever is connected to and interlocked with the water-dispensing button through a connection protrusion and the other end thereof is in contact and interlocked with the actuating switch.

10 7. The dispenser as claimed in claim 6, wherein the other end of the driving lever that is in contact with the actuating switch is placed at a position relatively higher than the end of the driving lever that is connected to the water-dispensing button with respect to the hinge portion.

15 8. The dispenser as claimed in claim 6, wherein the both ends of the driving lever define a predetermined angle around the hinge portion, and the other end of the driving lever that is in contact with the actuating switch is placed at a position relatively higher than the end of the driving lever that is connected to the water-dispensing button.

20 9. The dispenser as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a partition between the actuating switch and the dispensing port.

25 10. The dispenser as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dispensing port, the actuating switch and the driving lever are placed in a seating recess formed to be depressed on the front surface of the door, and the water-dispensing button unit is provided at an upper end of the recessed portion of the housing.

30 11. A dispenser for a refrigerator, comprising:
a housing mounted on a front surface of a door to define an external appearance, the

housing having a recessed portion formed to be depressed rearward;

a dispensing port for discharging water delivered from a main body of the refrigerator through a penetration portion formed at an upper end of the recessed portion of the housing;

5 a water-dispensing button unit having a water-dispensing button pressed by means of force exerted by a user to receive a signal necessary for the discharge of the water from the dispensing port;

an actuating switch operated by the water-dispensing button unit and turned on and off in such a manner that a resilient rib provided at a side of the actuating switch presses a driving protrusion thereof by means of elastic deformation of the resilient rib so as to
10 generate a signal for opening and closing the dispensing port;

a driving lever for connecting the actuating switch and the water-dispensing button to drive the actuating switch by means of the operation of the water-dispensing button; and

a partition disposed between the actuating switch and the dispensing port to prevent
15 the water discharged from the dispensing port from being transferred to the actuating switch.

12. The dispenser as claimed in claim 11, wherein the water-dispensing button unit comprises:

a support frame for guiding the movement of the water-dispensing button; and

20 a resilient member disposed between the support frame and the water-dispensing button to provide force to the water-dispensing button in one direction.

13. The dispenser as claimed in claim 11, wherein the driving lever pivots on a hinge portion such that both ends thereof move in the same manner as a seesaw, and one end of the driving lever is connected to and interlocked with the water-dispensing button through a
25 connection protrusion and the other end thereof is in contact and interlocked with the actuating switch.

14. The dispenser as claimed in claim 13, wherein the other end of the driving lever that
30 is in contact with the actuating switch is placed at a position relatively higher than the end of

the driving lever that is connected to the water-dispensing button with respect to the hinge portion.

15. The dispenser as claimed in claim 13, wherein the both ends of the driving lever
5 define a predetermined angle around the hinge portion, and the other end of the driving lever that is in contact with the actuating switch is placed at a position relatively higher than the end of the driving lever that is connected to the water-dispensing button.